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EAST ASIA BRIEF 167-754

LAOS-THAILAND: THE LAO ARE TAKING A HARSH LINE TOWARD BANGKOK AND ARE REFUSING TO COOPERATE TO REDUCE TENSIONS ALONG THE COMMON MEKONG BORDER.Y

VIENTIANE LAST WEEK REJECTED OUT OF HAND A THAT PROPOSAL FOR
JOINT MEKONG RIVER PATROLS TO ASSIST IN PREVENTING CLASHES ALONG
THE RIVER. THE THAT HAD PROPOSED THIS JOINT EFFORT FOLLOWING SEVERAL
BORDER SKIRMISHES EARLIER THIS MONTH. COMMENTING ON THE THAT
PROPOSAL, RADIO PATHET LAO ASSERTED THAT PROGRESS ON RELATIONS COULD
NOT BE MADE BECAUSE BANGKOK HAD?

- --FAILED TO RETURN FORMER LAO MILITARY EQUIPMENT NOW IN THAILAND; Y
- --ALLOWED LAG NON-COMMUNIST EXILES "TO CARRY OUT ACTIVITIES IN THAILAND; Y
 - --HELPED THE US TO "CREATE DISTURBANCES IN LAGS.Y

VIENTIANE'S POSITION ALMOST CERTAINLY REFLECTS HANOI'S INFLUENCE DE ON THE LAO COMMUNISTS. THE NORTH VIETNAMESE HAVE BEEN CITING THE THAI REFUSAL TO RETURN MILITARY EQUIPMENT THAT CAME FROM SOUTH VIETNAM

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AS A MAJOR STUMBLING BLOCK TO IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH BANGKOK.

PROGRESS ON LAO-THAI RELATIONS WILL PROBABLY HAVE TO AWAIT A RESOLUTION

OF THE IMPASSE BETWEEN HANOI AND BANGKOK. 4

MEANWHILE, THE LAO SEEM TO BE ATTEMPTING TO PRESSURE BANGKOK BY PLAYING ON THAI SENSITIVITIES REGARDING COMMUNIST INSURGENCY IN NORTHEAST THAILAND. A BROADCAST ON OCTOBER 23, AFTER BLAMING THE THAI FOR ALL BILATERAL PROBLEMS, EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT THAI "PATRIOTIC AND DEMOCRATIC FORCES"—A EUPHEMISM FOR THE THAI COMMUNISTS—WILL EVENTUALLY OVERTHROW THE BANGKOK GOVERNMENT. A PATHET LAO CABINET MEMBER ON OCTOBER 23 ADDED FUEL TO THE ANTI-THAI EFFORT BY PUBLICLY EMPHASIZING HISTORIC LAO CLAIMS TO MUCH OF NORTHEAST THAILAND. HE SAID THAT "SOONER OR LATER" THIS AREA WOULD BE REUNITED WITH LAOS.Y

//FOR THEIR PART, THE THAI ARE TAKING STEPS TO LESSEN THE POSSIBILITY THAT CONFLICTS ALONG THE MEKONG WILL GET OUT OF HAND. THEIR PATROL BOATS HAVE BEEN ISSUED STRICT RULES OF ENGAGEMENT, AND OTHER ARMED FORCES ELEMENTS HAVE BEEN ORDERED NOT TO ASSIST THAI BOATS INVOLVED IN CLASHES WITH THE LAO. (SECRET)// E-2, IMPDET.H

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1. ARGENTINA: THE NEWLY ANNOUNCED ACCORD WITH SOME ARGENTINE BUSINESS AND LABOR ORGANIZATIONS IS AN ATTEMPT BY THE GOVERNMENT TO BUY TIME WHILE IT GROPES FOR SOLUTIONS TO SERIOUS ECONOMIC PROBLEMS.4

TERMED A "SOCIAL TRUCE," THE ACCORD IS AN ATTEMPT TO REVIVE THE "SOCIAL PACT" HAMMERED OUT BY THE LATE JUAN PERON IN 1973. LATTER COMMITTED BUSINESS AND LABOR TO LIMIT THEIR RESPECTIVE DEMANDS IN THE INTEREST OF SOCIAL PEACE, Y

THE NEW ACCORD COMES AMID THE PROTEST STRIKES AND INCREASED TENSION THAT FOLLOWED PRESIDENT MARIA ESTELA PERON'S ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THERE WOULD NOT BE ANY NEW WAGE HIKES. WORKERS FOR SOME TIME HAVE BEEN COMPLAINING THAT THE HUGE INCREASES THEY WRESTED FROM THE GOVERNMENT LAST JUNE HAVE BEEN ERODED BY INFLATION. 4

THUS FAR. THERE HAVE BEEN FIVE WALKOUTS AT MAJOR AUTO PLANTS IN BUENOS AIRES AND CORDOBA. BANK WORKERS ARE ALSO ON STRIKE. Y

UNION LEADERS, FEARFUL OF LOSING THE SUPPORT OF THE RANK AND FILE, GENERALLY ECHO WORKER SENTIMENT, BUT HAVE AVOIDED A MAJOR

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CLASH WITH ECONOMY MINISTER CAFIERO. HE ADVOCATES HOLDING THE LINE ON.
WAGES AND SEEKS TO THE FUTURE INCREASES TO GREATER PRODUCTIVITY.

CAFIERO HAS STRONG PERONIST CREDENTIALS AND A LONG ASSOCIATION WITH LABOR, BUT HE CANNOT STAY IN OFFICE INDEFINITELY WITHOUT GIVING THE WORKERS SOMETHING. HE HAS ALREADY COMPROMISED SOMEWHAT BY INCREASING FAMILY ALLOWANCES.

LABOR LEADERS WHO STILL SUPPORT PERON COULD BE OBLIGED TO BREAK WITH HER EVENTUALLY IN THE FACE OF WORKER PRESSURE. IN THE EVENT, THE ADMINISTRATION WOULD BE DEPRIVED OF MOST OF ITS REMAINING ACTIVE SUPPORTERS.Y

SOME ADMINISTRATION CRITICS, PARTICULARLY AMONG THE MILITARY, MAY WELL HOPE FOR SUCH A DEVELOPMENT, WHICH THEY COULD PRESENT AS FURTHER PROOF OF THE NEED TO REPLACE THE ADMINISTRATION. FOR EVERY OFFICER WHO FEELS THIS WAY, THERE IS UNDOUBTEDLY ANOTHER WHO FEARS THE EMERGENCE OF AN UNDISCIPLINED, LEADERLESS LABOR MOVEMENT THAT WOULD GREATLY COMPLICATE ANY ATTEMPT BY THE MILITARY TO GOVERN THE COUNTRY.Y

THE ADMINISTRATION ALSO FACES PROBLEMS IN CONGRESS, WHERE

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OPPOSITION LEADERS ARE PUSHING FOR AN INVESTIGATION OF CORRUPTION
IN HIGH PLACES. 4

PERONIST POLITICIANS, WHILE TRYING TO STEER THE INVESTIGATION AWAY FROM THE PRESIDENT, HAVE REVERSED THEIR EARLIER POSITION AND VOTED TO PURSUE THE INVESTIGATION. {CONFIDENTIAL}+

2. BRAZIL: THE BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT IS ENCOURAGING FOREIGN COOPERATION WITH ITS NEW STATE WEAPONS INDUSTRY. APPARENTLY IN HOPES OF MAKING ITS ARMED FORCES SELF-SUFFICIENT AND EXPANDING THE NATION'S EXPORT MARKET.4

LAST APRIL, PRESIDENT GEISEL FORMALLY PROPOSED THE CREATION OF A PUBLIC ENTERPRISE TO BE KNOWN AS THE WAR MATERIEL INDUSTRY THAT COULD ALSO PROVIDE INCENTIVES FOR INDUSTRIAL GROWTH AND ADVANCE STRATEGIC RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT. IN JUSTIFYING THE ACTION, ARMY MINISTER SYLVIO FROTA EMPHASIZED THAT STRONGER CENTRALIZED GOVERNMENT CONTROL IS NEEDED BECAUSE "PRIVATE ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPING WITHOUT A CLEAR AND FIXED ORIENTATION, HAD NOT BEEN ENOUGH."

IT WOULD APPEAR THAT GOVERNMENT SUPPORT IS ALREADY HAVING A MAJOR IMPACT. DURING THE PAST YEAR MORE THAN 100 DIRECTORS OF LARGE

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FIRMS SPECIALIZING IN THE PRODUCTION OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT HAVE

VISITED BRAZIL TO EXPLORE INVESTMENT POSSIBILITIES. BRAZIL HAS

ALREADY CONCLUDED OVER \$100 MILLION IN EXPORT CONTRACTS, INCLUDING

MAJOR CREDIT DEALS WITH CHILE AND LIBYA. A RECENT ARTICLE IN THE

INFLUENTIAL DAILY JORNAL DO BRASIL EXPRESSED SPECIAL INTEREST IN

COOPERATING WITH THE WEST GERMANS, STATING "WE HAVE AN IDEAL

COMMUNITY OF INTEREST WITH GERMANY...BRAZIL WILL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF

EXCELLENT GERMAN EXPERTISE IN THE PRODUCTION OF ARMS, INCLUDING

SOPHISTICATED MISSILES, WITH A GUARANTEED MARKEY ASSURED."Y

ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS MAY BE AS SIGNIFICANT AS STRATEGIC ONES. THE GOVERNMENT IS ATTEMPTING TO BOLSTER ITS SAGGING BALANCE-OF-PAYMENTS POSITION, AND AN UPSWING IN WEAPONS EXPORTS WOULD PROVIDE NEEDED FOREIGN EXCHANGE. ALTHOUGH BRAZIL WILL PROBABLY STILL NEED TO IMPORT SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS FOR SOME TIME, AN EXPANSION IN EXPORTS OF SMALL ARMS, MOTOR VEHICLES, AND TRAINER AIRCRAFT WOULD RESULT ÎN VALUABLE FEEDBACK FROM FOREIGN BUYERS THAT MIGHT SPEED THE TRANSITION TO SELF-SUFFICIENCY. {CONFIDENTIAL} E-2 IMPDET.H

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MEA BRIEF 167-75.4

J. SPANISH SAHARA: MOROCCAN FOREIGN MINISTER LARAKI, ACCOMPANIED
THIS TIME BY HIS MAURITANIAN COUNTERPART, RETURNED TO MADRID TUESDAY
FOR ANOTHER ROUND OF TALKS ON SPANISH SAHARAR.

THE QUICKENING PACE OF DIPLOMATIC CONTACTS AND THE INCLUSION OF MAURITANIA, WHICH IS ALIGNED WITH MOROCCO ON THE SPARISH SAHARA DISPUTE, SUGGEST THAT NEGOTIATIONS WITH SPAIN ARE MAKING PROGRESS.

AN UNDERSTANDING MAY BE NEAR THAT WOULD PARTITION SPANISH SAHARA BETWEEN MOROCCO AND MAURITANIA AND GRANT SPAIN MILITARY BASES AND VARIOUS ECONOMIC CONCESSIONS.Y

THE THREE COUNTRIES HAVE REASON TO SETTLE THE SAHARA DISPUTE

QUICKLY. MOROCCO AND MAURITANIA WOULD LIKE A NEGOTIATED FAIT ACCOMPLI

IN HOPES OF HEADING OFF A DEBATE ON SELF-DETERMINATION FOR THE

DISPUTED TERRITORY IN THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY THIS FALL. SPAIN

WOULD LIKE TO SETTLE THIS CONTENTIOUS ISSUE BEFORE JUAN CARLOS

ASSUMES POWER TO SPARE HIS NEW GOVERNMENT AN ADDITIONAL BURDEN

AND FORESTALL OR AT LEAST LIMIT THE SIZE OF MOROCCO'S PLANNED

MASS MARCH INTO 2PANISH SAHARA.Y

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IS CONCERNED THAT IF KING HASSA. GOES THROUGH WITH HIS PLANNED MARCH OF 350,000 PEOPLE, THE SITUATION WILL GET OUT OF CONTROL. MADRID MIGHT ALLOW A SMALL NUMBER OF MOROCCANS TO MAKE A SYMBOLIC ENTRY INTO SPANISH SAHARA. BUT THE MILITARY HAS INDICATED IT WILL NOT ALLOW LARGE NUMBERS OF MARCHERS TO CROSS THE BORDER AND CONTINUE ON TO EL AAIUN.//Y

INTENDS TO IMPLEMENT SHOULD LARGE NUMBERS OF MARCHERS CROSS
THE BORDER. SPANISH BORDER GUARDS REPORTEDLY WOULD EVACUATE
THE BORDER AREA SHORTLY BEFORE THE MOROCCANS ARRIVED;
PROPAGANDA WOULD THEN BE DISTRIBUTED TO DISCOURAGE THE MARCHERS
FROM CROSSING. IF THE MOROCCANS PERSISTED, THE SPANISH
MILITARY WOULD ATTEMPT TO DISSUADE THE MARCHERS BY MAKING
APPEALS OVER LOUDSPEAKERS AND USING TEAR GAS. IF THE MARCHERS
REACHED A POINT SOME 18 TO 24 MILES INTO SPANISH-HELD TERRITORY,
HOWEVER, THE SPANISH WOULD ESTABLISH A LINE OF MILITARY
RESISTANCE AND USE FORCE TO STOP THE MARCHERS. THE MILITARY

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REPORTEDLY FEELS THAT IT CANNOT PERMIT THE MARCHERS TO ENTER EL AAIUN BECAUSE IT WOULD BE UNABLE TO CONTROL THE EXPECTED VIOLENCE. 87/14

THE THREE GOVERNMENTS MAY SEEK A SECURITY COUNCIL
RESOLUTION ENDORSING WHATEVER ARRANGEMENTS THEY ARE ABLE TO
WORK OUT. SPAIN HAS CONSISTENTLY SOUGHT UN APPROVAL FOR ANY
ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE DECOLONIZATION OF SPANISH SAHARA.
MOROCCO, FOR ITS PART, IS BEGINNING TO REFER TO ITS ONGOING
CONTACTS WITH MADRID IN THE CONTEXT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL
RESOLUTION OF LAST WEEK THAT CALLED ON ALL PARTIES TO BEGIN
A DIALOGUE.Y

ALGERIA, WHICH OPPOSES A TURNOVER OF THE TERRITORY TO MOROCCO AND MAURITANIA, REMAINS THE CHIEF STUMBLING BLOCK TO AN EARLY RESOLUTION OF THE DISPUTE. ACCORDING TO AN ALGIERS RADIOBROADCAST, FOREIGN MINISTER BOUTEFLIKA, WHO IS STILL AT THE UN, SENT A MESSAGE TO SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM LAST WEEKEND ENDORSING HIS CONSULTATIVE MISSION TO MOROCCO, MAURITANIA, ALGERIA, AND SPAIN, WHICH ENDED TUESDAY.

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BOUTEFLIKA MADE IT CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT WALDHEIM SHOULD CONFINE
HIMSELF TO SEEKING A REDUCTION OF TENSIONS IN THE AREA AND
THAT THE ADOPTION OF APPROPRIATE MEASURES FOR DECOLONIZATION
SHOULD BE LEFT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. HE ADDED THAT THESE
MEASURES MUST BE IN ACCORD WITH A RECENT REPORT BY A UN
FACT-FINDING GROUP AND AN ADVISORY OPINION BY THE INTERNATIONAL
COURT OF JUSTICE, WHICH HAD THE EFFECT OF WEAKENING MOROCCO'S
CLAIM TO THE TERRITORY. {SECRET NOFORN} E-2, IMPDET.H

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EUROPEAN BRIEF 167-75.4

J. PORTUGAL: THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN FURTHER STEPS TO ASSERT ITS AUTHORITY IN THE WAKE OF PRIME MINISTER AZEVEDO'S SUCCESSFUL TRIP TO PORTO LAST WEEKEND.Y

THE FIRST CRACKDOWN BY THE MILITARY ON COMMUNIST-BACKED SEIZURES
OF PRIVATELY OWNED FARMS OCCURRED ON MONDAY NORTH OF LISBON WHEN A
CAVALRY UNIT ARRESTED TEN FARMS WORKERS' UNION SQUATTERS. THE
SECURITY FORCES SAID THE WORKERS WOULD BE PROSECUTED FOR THE ILLEGAL
POSSESSION OF MILITARY FIREARMS. AN AMNESTY FOR TURNING IN SUCH
FIREARMS EXPIRED ON SATURDAY. AN ATTEMPT BY OUTSIDERS TO OCCUPY
ANOTHER FARM IN THE AREA EVENTUALLY WAS ABANDONED.Y

MONDAY'S ACTION BY THE MILITARY IS SIGNIFICANT IN LIGHT OF THE COMMUNIST-INSPIRED SEIZURE OF OVER HALF A MILLION ACRES OF PRIME FARMLAND IN SOUTHERN PORTUGAL SINCE SUMMER. BECAUSE MUCH OF THE EXPROPRIATED LAND LIES FALLOW AND LARGE NUMBERS OF LIVESTOCK HAVE BEEN SENSELESSLY SLAUGHTERED. THE TAKE-OVERS COULD CONFRONT THE GOVERNMENT WITH SERIOUS AGRICULTURAL SHORTAGES BY NEXT YEAR.Y

ALSO ON MONDAY, LEFT-WING DEMONSTRATORS WERE OUSTED FROM THE

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CIVIL GOVERNOR'S OFFICES IN FARO, IN THE SOUTHERN ALGARVE RESORT

AREA, AFTER THEY WERE OCCUPIED TO PROTEST THE RECENT REMOVAL OF THE

PRO-COMMUNIST GOVERNOR. SOLDIERS RUSHED TO THE SCENE AFTER A COMBINED

ASSAULT ON THE OFFICES BY THE SOCIALISTS AND POPULAR DEMOCRATS

RESULTED IN A BRAUL IN WHICH TEN PEOPLE WERE INJURED.Y

IN ANOTHER INCIDENT SOUTH OF LISBON, AN INFANTRY REGIMENT

INTERVENED TO PREVENT VIOLENCE WHEN LEFTIST FARM WORKERS OCCUPIED

THE LOCAL FARMERS' GUILD.4

THE PORTUGUESE ARMY, AND PARTICULARLY CHIEF OF STAFF FABIAO, HAVE
COME IN FOR HARSH CRITICISM BECAUSE OF LAX DISCIPLINE AND THEIR
FAILURE TO ENSURE PUBLIC ORDER. AN ARMY SPOKESMAN SAID MONDAY THAT
LA PERCENT OF THE ARMY WILL BE DEMOBILIZED WHILE FABIAO IS AWAY THIS
WEEK ON A VISIT TO WEST GERMANY.Y

ON THE ECONOMIC FRONT, THE GOVERNMENT HAS ANNOUNCED A SERIES OF MEASURES INTENDED TO STOP THE FLIGHT OF CAPITAL AND STRENGTHEN THE ESCUDO. FOREIGN EXCHANGE TRANSACTIONS BY PORTUGUESE NATIONALS HAVE BEEN SEVERELY LIMITED AND VIOLATORS FACE PRISON TERMS RANGING FROM TWO TO EIGHT YEARS.Y

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MEANWHILE, THE APPROACHING END THIS WEEK OF THE GOVERNMENTSPONSORED AIRLIFT OF ANGOLAN REFUGEES COULD SPELL ADDITIONAL
PROBLEMS FOR AZEVEDO'S GOVERNMENT, NEARLY 200,000 RETURNEES WILL HAVE
REACHED PORTUGAL BY OCTOBER 31. THE INCREASINGLY EMBITTERED AND
FRUSTRATED REFUGEES HAVE REFRAINED FROM TAKING DIRECT POLITICAL
ACTION, REPORTEDLY FOR FEAR OF REPRISALS AGAINST FRIENDS AND
RELATIVES STILL IN ANGOLA, LAST WEEKEND, HOWEVER, A GROUP BELIEVED
ASSOCIATED WITH THE REFUGEES CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR A BOMB
ATTACK ON THE LEFT-WING ANGOLAN CULTURAL CENTER. THE GROUP, WHICH
BLAMED THE GOVERNMENT REFUGEE AGENCY FOR THE PLIGHT OF THE RETURNEES,
SAID IT HAS DECIDED TO "ANSWER FORCE WITH FORCE AND VIOLENCE WITH
VIOLENCE."

ANOTHER REFUGEE GROUP, CALLED THE LIBERATION FRONT OF PORTUGAL, SENT A DELEGATION TO THE US EMBASSY LAST WEEK TO ASK FOR ARMS, MONEY, AND ORGANIZATIONAL SUPPORT. (SECRETLY

2. LEBANON: THE FIGHTING IN BEIRUT'S COMMERCIAL AREA WAS
HEAVY THROUGHOUT TUESDAY. BY LATE AFTERNOON, HOWEVER, THE PHALANGIST
MILITIA SERMED TO BE ON THE DEFENSIVE AND WAS WITHDRAWING FROM

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PRIME MINISTER KARAMI TUESDAY ANNOUNCED FORMATION OF A
TEN-MAN "SECURITY COMMITTEE" TO PUT INTO EFFECT A CEASE-FIRE
THAT WAS CALLED LAST SUNDAY. HE SAID THE GROUP, WHICH INCLUDES THE
COUNTRY'S MAJOR POLITICAL LEADERS, WOULD BE MEETING IN HIS OFFICE
UNTIL THE FIGHTING STOPS. THE COMMITTEE WILL PROBABLY NOT SUCCEED.
MOST MEMBERS HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO REACH THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

THE LUXURY HOTEL DISTRICT IT SEIZED OVER THE WEEKEND.Y

BECAUSE OF CONTINUED FIGHTING, AND ONE, SCCIALIST LEADER KAMAL JUMBLATT, HAS SAID HE WILL NOT PARTICIPATE.Y

JUMBLATT DISMISSED THE NEW COMMITTEE AS AN OUTDATED ATTEMPT
AT "TRIBAL RECONCILIATION." HE INSISTED THAT LEBANON'S PROBLEMS
MUST BE SOLVED THROUGH FUNDAMENTAL REFORMS. DESPITE THIS ATTACK AND
HIS MANY OTHER POLITICAL DIFFERENCES WITH KARAMI, JUMBLATT ALMOST
CERTAINLY PREFERS THAT THE PRIME MINISTER RESIST EFFORTS BY RIGHTWING CHRISTIANS TO FORCE HIS RESIGNATION.Y

A SHOWDOWN BETWEEN KARAMI AND INTERIOR MINISTER SHAMUN WAS AVERTED TUESDAY WHEN PARLIAMENT AGAIN FAILED TO MUSTER A QUORUM.

IN FACT, AN AIDE TO PHALANGIST LEADER JUMAYYIL WAS KILLED YESTERDAY

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IN THE CONTINUING FIGHTING AROUND THE PARLIAMENT BUILDING. HIS

DEATH WILL LEAD TO PHALANGIST CALLS FOR REVENGE AGAINST THE FAR

LEFT AND WILL REINFORCE JUMAYYIL'S REFUSAL TO MAKE POLITICAL

CONCESSIONS. (SECRET)4

3. YUGOSLAVIA: BELGRADE'S STRONGEST CAMPAIGN AGAINST PROSOVIET SUBVERSIVES IN AT LEAST FOUR YEARS CONTINUES TO GAIN
MOMENTUM. A LOCAL OBSERVER REPORTS THAT 123 COMINFORMISTS ARE NOW IN YUGOSLAV JAILS AWAITING TRIAL. Y

DENUNCIATIONS OF THE COMINFORMISTS ARE POURING
IN FROM EVERY CORNER OF THE COUNTRY. THE PARTY
WEEKLY KOMMUNIST SET OFF THE ANTI-STALINIST CAMPAIGN
TWO WEEKS AGO WITH A STINGING ATTACK ON "COUNTERREVOLUTIONARIES AND TRAITORS" WHO COVERTLY UNDERMINE
THE COUNTRY'S INDEPENDENCE AND SOCIAL SYSTEM. TOP
LEVEL PARTY AND GOVERNMENT SPOKESMEN HAVE FOLLOWED
UP WITH SPECIFIC REFERENCES TO THE DESIRES OF THE
SUBVERSIVES TO ATTACH YUGOSLAVIA TO THE SOVIET "CAMP."
MANY OF THESE HINTS OF SUSPICION ABOUT MOSCOW'S AT-

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THE ANTI-STALINIST HUE AND CRY DERIVES FROM BEL-GRADE'S AWARENESS THAT THE FALTERING ECONOMIC PER-FORMANCE THIS YEAR COULD CREATE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR A SMALL BUT HIGHLY ORGANIZED GROUP--LIKE THE COMIN-WARY THAT FORMISTS--TO UNDERMINE THE TITO SYSTEM. THE GROUP MIGHT BE GATHERING STRENGTH FOR A STRONG POST-TITO DRIVE FOR POWER, THE REGIME APPEARS DETER-MINED TO IMPRISON ALL THE POTENTIAL STALINISTS IT CAN FIND BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE.Y

BEHIND THIS PASSIONATE REACTION LIES A DEEP-SEATED FEAR THAT MOSCOW'S BENEVOLENCE TOWARD BELGRADE OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS ONLY MASKED AN ULTIMATE SO-VIET PLAN TO RESTORE YUGOSLAVIA, BY WHATEVER MEANS, TO THE SOVIET ORBIT. THE CURRENT EASING OF THE RE-GIME'S USUAL STRICTURES AGAINST ANTI-SOVIET PROPA-GANDA IS APPARENTLY MEETING AN OVERLY ENTHUSIASTIC

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RESPONSE FROM THE MASSES. LAST FRIDAY, KOMMUNIST

STERNLY WARNED THOSE WHO "SLANDER" HONEST COMMUNISTS

AS "COMINFORMISTS" THAT ONLY THE SUBVERSIVES STAND

TO GAIN FROM THE SPREAD OF DOUBTS ABOUT THE LEADERSHIP.Y

UNTIL RECENTLY, THE DETAILS OF THE CONSPIRACY,

ITS SIZE, AND PLANS FOR TRIALS WERE KEPT UNDER WRAPS,

BUT THE PARTY AND FRONT GROUPS ARE NOW FILTERING OUT

INFORMATION WHICH IMPLIES THAT SOME SENTENCES MAY BE

DOLED OUT SOON. TITHOUGH THERE ARE OCCASIONAL RUMORS

OF A PUBLIC SHOW TRIAL, INSIDERS ARE NOW SUGGESTING

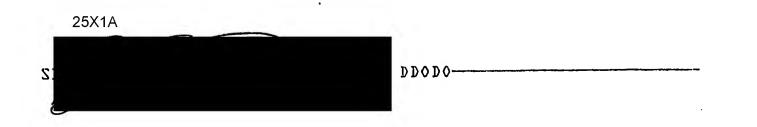
THAT THE TRIALS WILL BE HELD IN CAMERA AND THAT THE

RESULTS WILL BE CAFEFULLY USED TO FEED THE CURRENT

"VIGILANCE" CAMPAIGN.Y

ACCORDING TO LOCAL OBSERVERS. THE BELGRADE DIPLOMATIC CIRCUIT IS ABUZZ WITH SPECULATION ABOUT A NEW
DOWNTURN IN RELATIONS WITH MOSCOW. BUT A FULL BREACH
IS NOT EXPECTED. SO LONG AS BELGRADE DOES NOT INDULGE IN OVERTLY ANTI-SOVIET ALLEGATIONS AND MOSCOW

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